

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15-18, 33 and 35-38 have been amended. Claims 2-13 and 34 remain unchanged and Claims 14 and 19-32 remain canceled.

I. Rejection under Section 112

Claims 1-13, 15-18 and 33-38 stand rejected under Section 112 for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The office action states that there is no written disclosure for the claimed language "pre-formed" in the claims and, therefore, is considered new matter. The office action states that if "pre-form" were deleted from the claims, the rejection under Section 112 would be overcome and claims allowed.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to remove all language relating to "pre-form" or "pre-formed". In view of these amendments, the claims now comply with Section 112 and are allowable.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

No prior art was cited against the instant application.

III. Conclusion

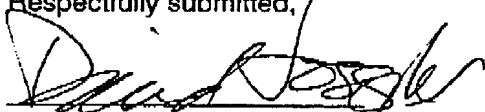
Applicant submits that Claims 1-13, 15-18 and 33-38 are now definite and, therefore, allowable over the cited prior art. In view of the above, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-13, 15-18 and 33-38 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Rejections and Objections are requested. Allowance of Claims 1-13, 15-18 and 33-38 at an early date is solicited.

If a further extension of time is required for timely submission of this response, Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time and the Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account 02-0900 for the appropriate additional fees in connection with the filing of this response.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should any questions arise.

Dated: 2/4/2004

Respectfully submitted,



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